

- Excluded*
- (d) a sharpened tip, for penetrating the penetrable passageway barrier portions, is located at one end of the tray.
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R E M A R K S

The Applicants express their appreciation to Examiner Doyle for allowing claims 43-52.

The Examiner has rejected claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments to claims 25 and 26 overcome this rejection.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 12-21, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. §103. For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable in view of the foregoing amendment to claim 12.

The Examiner has objected to claims 23 and 24 as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims, claims 23 and 24 would be allowable. Specifically, claim 23, which is dependant on independent claim 12, contains the limitation that the portion of the passageway inside the passageway barrier portion is filled with inert gas. In claim 24, which is dependant upon claim 23, the inert gas is nitrogen. The Applicants have now amended claim 12 to include the limitation of claim 23, have canceled claim 23 without prejudice, and have amended claim 24 to be dependant upon claim 12 instead of claim 23. The Applicants believe that this amendment to claim 12 overcomes the prior art rejections, especially in light of the Examiner's allowance of claims 43-52 "for the reasons discussed . . . with regard to claims 23 and 24." (Examiner's Action, p. 6).

The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that in light of

the foregoing amendment, all of the claims are now in proper condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



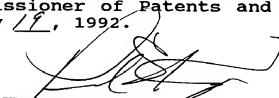
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 19, 1992.



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